

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 4-9 have been withdrawn from further consideration. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 62-128011; and claims 10-14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 62-128011 in view of Fukuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,533). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither JP 62-128011 or Fukuda, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a thin film magnetic head, including at least a thermal diffusion film being made of a metallic film, and disposed in the heat transmission path from the coil film toward the slider, which corresponds to a shortest path between the coil film and the slider, so as to radiate Joule heat created in the coil film via the slider, as recited in independent claim 1.

Specifically, the Office Action asserts that JP 62-128011 inherently discloses Joule heat created in the coil film to the slider body 7 since the slider body 7 is adjacent to the diffusion film 9. The Office Action alleges that some amount of heat radiating from the

diffusion film 9 would inherently be absorbed by the slider body 7 and passed on to the surrounding ambient air adjacent the slider body 7. See paragraph 6 of the Office Action. However, JP 62-128011 discloses that the diffusion film 9 is formed continuous from the thin film coil 1 and not in a heat transmission path from the coil film toward the slider which corresponds to a shortest path between the coil film and the slider.

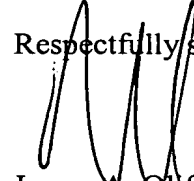
As shown in Fig. 2 of this application, the thin film coil 37 is formed in two layers, and the thermal diffusion film 381 is formed in two layers. In this embodiment, each thermal diffusion film layer is connected to the corresponding thin film coil layer at the same surface level. Because the thermal transmission path is defined as the shortest path between the thin film coil film 37 and the slider 73, the thermal transmission path corresponds substantially to the vertical path between the slider 73 and the thin film coil 37. Thus, the lower thermal diffusion film layer functions as the inherent thermal diffusion film for the upper thin film coil layer, but the upper thermal diffusion film layer does not function in this capacity. However, JP 62-128011 fails to disclose or suggest that the diffusion film 9 is disposed in the heat transmission path as defined in claim 1 because the diffusion film 9 is formed continuous from the thin film coil 1.

Because JP 62-128011 fails to disclose this feature, JP 62-128011 does not disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Furthermore, because Fukuda fails to compensate for deficiencies in JP 62-128011, it would not have been obvious to combine the applied references to arrive at the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 10-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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